

In Confidence

Office of the Minister for Children

Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

Oranga Tamariki Action Plan – Report on initial implementation

Proposal

- 1 This paper provides an overview of initial implementation of the first Oranga Tamariki Action Plan (the “Action Plan”). It seeks delegated authority so that I, as Plan Minister,¹ can make minor amendments to the Implementation Plan. It also proposes a process for amending actions in or adding actions to the Action Plan.

Relation to government priorities

- 2 This proposal relates to the government’s priority of laying foundations for the future. We are committed to ensuring that New Zealand is the best place in the world for children and young people. We are also committed to ensuring Oranga Tamariki partners with iwi, hapū, and Māori organisations to find appropriate solutions for children and young people in need, and their families, whānau, hapū and iwi.

Executive Summary

- 3 The first Oranga Tamariki Action Plan is ambitious. It is designed to highlight the areas of dysfunction in the children’s system and demands a new depth of commitment across agencies to prioritising and meeting the needs of the Action Plan cohort,² including those children and young people who are in the care of Oranga Tamariki. We need the Action Plan to succeed in order to achieve a different experience for New Zealand children, young people, their families and whānau with the greatest needs, as well as the social workers and other front-line staff who support them. This level of system shift will take time to realise.
- 4 Six months of delivery against the first Oranga Tamariki Action Plan has brought into stark relief the significant gaps between the needs of the Action Plan cohort, and the services provided by Government agencies. A key component of the Action Plan is to bring together agencies’ data and experiences, evidence, and the voices of children and young people over the last few years into in-depth assessments of need which clearly set out the education, health and housing needs of these children and young people (Action 3). Four assessments of need were delivered in 2022. Agencies, including Oranga Tamariki, have begun the challenge of responding to meet those needs (Action 6). I am confident we have the commitment of my Ministerial colleagues, and the chief executives of the children’s agencies³ to make the changes that are required.

¹ The Plan Minister is designated under section 5(1) of the Children’s Act 2014.

² The Action Plan cohort encompasses the “core populations of interest to the department” as defined in s.5(1) of the Children’s Act 2014.

³ Children’s agencies are defined by the Act as Oranga Tamariki, New Zealand Police, and the Ministries of Education, Social Development, Health, and Justice. Other agencies can be involved, such as Te Puni Kōkiri, the Department of Corrections, Wha kaha, and the Ministry for Housing and Urban Development

- 5 Changes that I expect to see from the first tranche of delivery against the Action Plan include:
- 5.1 a different experience for young people in the care of Oranga Tamariki through increased options for supported housing and other housing options when they transition from care to independence in the community
 - 5.2 access to the right supports for children and young people who are distressed and suffering from mental health conditions and addictions, with increased knowledge and collaboration around children and young people who are involved with Oranga Tamariki and have mental wellbeing needs
 - 5.3 children and young people in the care of Oranga Tamariki are supported to be included in the education system, and are supported to actively participate in education with good quality and engaging education supports
 - 5.4 learning and development needs are identified early, met with a full and timely assessment, and followed through properly with interventions and supports to provide the Action Plan cohort with the best possible start and journey through life to independence.
- 6 Underpinning these efforts, officials have laid the foundations for children’s agencies to work together more closely on data and information sharing, policy, operational cooperation, and services delivery. This included delivering and progressing the range of short-term practical actions (Action 2). An evidence and indicators dashboard developed under Action 4 will provide Ministers with information over the medium term to see if delivering the Action Plan is having an impact. Ministers will have full visibility of progress through the six-monthly implementation reports provided to Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Ministers.
- 7 I recognise we are at an early waypoint on the Action Plan’s journey. As future needs assessments are delivered, we will continue to see commitments to new tangible actions. Together, children’s agencies will achieve the different experience for our children and young people; one that supports their wellbeing including as part of their wider whānau, meets their specific needs, and upholds their child, disability, and indigenous rights.

Background

- 8 The Action Plan was publicly announced on 8 July 2022 following the adoption of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy in 2019 (the “Strategy”).⁴ The Plan articulates how children’s agency chief executives will work together to improve the wellbeing of the Action Plan cohort, in accordance with the Strategy, and sets out 11 overarching actions (see Appendix A).
- 9 On 4 July 2022, Cabinet endorsed the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan Implementation Plan as an important companion to the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan, and invited the Minister to report back to Cabinet on progress made in implementing the plans in December 2022 [CAB-22-MIN-0255] (refer recommendation 1).

Agencies are accountable for delivering actions

- 10 The children’s agencies chief executives are accountable to me as the Plan Minister for delivery against the Action Plan. I expect to see agencies deliver on all activities

⁴ Both the Action Plan and the Strategy are requirements of the Children’s Act 2014.

to which they have committed. Progress will be reflected in six-monthly implementation reports provided to the Child and Youth Wellbeing Ministers (refer recommendation 2).

Progress has been made against the significant and measurable result areas, although not always specific to the Action Plan cohort

- 11 In the Implementation Plan, Oranga Tamariki identified four significant and measurable result areas as a priority for 2022: (1) positive housing conditions, (2) good health including mental wellbeing, (3) access to good education, and (4) support to grow, connect and be independent.
- 12 In 2022, agencies began to establish and deliver work programmes against these result areas:
 - 12.1 Health: Te Whatu Ora is engaged in work to improve the delivery of health services in Oranga Tamariki residences, and the Gateway Assessments review. Te Aka Whai Ora is engaged, with an emphasis on elevating Mātauranga Māori and te ao Māori solutions in response to improving tamariki and rangatahi ora.
 - 12.2 Housing: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is designing a new supported accommodation service for youth and rangatahi; and has implemented 80-90 additional youth-focused transitional housing places. A system-wide supported housing review is also being planned.
 - 12.3 Education: The Ministry of Education (MoE) and Oranga Tamariki held a sprint to design and develop shared processes to ensure education planning begins for young people in a care and protection residence no later than 30 days before their planned exit out of that residence.
 - 12.4 Transitions: The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) is working with other agencies to help support young people more generally in their transition to independence through work programmes such as He Poutama Rangatahi, Mana in Mahi and Apprenticeship Boost Initiative, which help young people into employment, education, and training. Young people, and particularly young Māori and Pacific peoples, continue to be a priority group for MSD's employment services. There are challenges with identifying the cohort of young people ageing out of care for employment support at a national level. This is being worked on as a priority.

Initial implementation has delivered across most of the plan, the highlights being the short-term practical actions, evidence dashboard, and in-depth assessments

Action 1 progress: Clarifying expectations to frontline decision makers

- 13 Initial implementation of messaging from leadership about the purpose of the Action Plan and its outcomes is beginning to reach some (not all) frontline kaimahi. For example, MSD is tailoring its communications to regions and specialised service lines and drawing in feedback to adapt its approaches.
- 14 In some sectors such as health, the frontline kaimahi are in the wider sector rather than in the children's agency. To address this broader outreach, chief executives from Manatū Hauora - the Ministry of Health (MoH), Te Aka Whai Ora and Te Whatu Ora are developing an approach to clarify expectations to frontline decision makers

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for the health sector. MoH has already embedded the Action Plan within key health system accountability and planning documents. It is also encouraging to see that, while it is not a children's agency, HUD has taken a similar approach, reflecting the needs of the youth cohort in key planning documents, in particular the Homelessness Action Plan

- 15 It is my intention to propose an update to Action 1 to make clear that children's agencies need to meet the needs of the Action Plan cohort, by ensuring they get the services they need, when they need them.

Action 2 progress: Agencies' commitment to action can be seen through the work done to date on the short-term practical actions

- 16 The Implementation Plan set out a range of short-term practical actions for agencies to progress in 2022, chosen to provide initial momentum for Action 2, and to deliver early progress in cross-agency efforts. All of these actions have either been delivered or are underway (refer Appendix B) (refer recommendation 3).

Ministry of Justice

- 17 The Ministry of Justice has implemented the Kaiārahi roles to support parents to access services and community-based support, with 51 Kaiārahi roles based around New Zealand.⁵ These will be evaluated 12-18 months from establishment.
- 18 The Young Adult List,⁶ first set up in Porirua, has since been extended to the Gisborne and Hamilton District Courts. Since being established, Gisborne and Hamilton Young Adult Lists have been strengthened with community service provider referral pathways, to support young adults to address underlying needs.
- 19 Initial work to develop court familiarisation resources for witnesses in sexual violence trials (so they are better prepared for giving their evidence) involves scoping the user needs, and a provider has been sourced to take the work forward. The "Phase 1" discovery work has started and runs to the end of May 2023. This will include looking at specific resource needs for children and young people.
- 20 Justice is also scoping the capacity and resourcing needs of providers and court staff to increase access to family violence safety programmes for children. This is through the Family Violence Sexual Violence Operational Improvements work programme, which includes projects to improve the experience of participants (particularly victims and children) in family violence and sexual violence proceedings in the District Court.

Police

- 21 Police is progressing the enhanced Te Pae Oranga Rangatahi pilot in Ōtautahi (Christchurch) and is on track to partnering with providers to implement Te Pae Oranga Rangatahi in two more pilot sites to test and inform the future model. By July 2023, Police will conduct readiness mapping for future locations and begin engaging with providers.

⁵ The service is free and will support whānau by:

- a) accessing support in the community to help families reach agreement about the care of their children
- b) helping parties understand the Family Court process and support them through their journey
- c) supporting community groups that work with whānau/families.

⁶ This is a judicially-led initiative being piloted in the Porirua District Court that aims to support young adults aged 18 to 25 to more easily understand and engage with the court process.

- 22 Progress has been made on information sharing within Police systems so that young people presenting with risky behaviours are connected to the right wellbeing supports. Incident coding changes have been introduced to Police's recording system, the National Intelligence Application, so that relevant records are assessed prior to filing as to whether any referrals, assessments or wellbeing interventions might be required for a child or young person.

Corrections

- 23 Corrections has delivered several actions, including putting in place the temporary process to use section 175 of the Criminal Procedure Act 2011 for placements of remanded 18-year-olds in the custody of the chief executive of Oranga Tamariki rather than in an adult facility. This process will be reviewed by mid-2023.
- 24 Staff training for assessment placement of young adults,⁷ or APYA, has been completed at all but three sites, with remaining sites to be completed in 2023.
- 25 Corrections has taken steps to enhance local relationships between women's prisons and their local Oranga Tamariki sites to support better outcomes for mothers and babies in Corrections' Mothers and Babies Units (MBU) and Feedings and Bonding Spaces:
- 25.1 They have updated the MBU information booklet and provided it to the regional senior advisors and call centres at Oranga Tamariki to support local understanding of the MBU.
- 25.2 The Christchurch Women's Prison has a new Social Worker and is building a working relationship with the local Oranga Tamariki site to support the MBU, Feeding and Bonding applications, and other supports required for mothers and children.
- 25.3 Multi-disciplinary meetings held at Auckland Region Women's Corrections Facility to discuss Feeding and Bonding applications and provide information or advice are attended by Oranga Tamariki staff from the Hōmai site.

Housing and Urban Development

- 26 HUD undertook an internal service process review of the initial youth-focused transitional housing placements undertaken in August and September 2022. Many approved rangatahi Māori youth transitional housing providers are not yet operational, so the review recommended a further evaluation when more providers were operational.
- 27 HUD is also leading a system-wide Supported Housing Review under the Aotearoa New Zealand Homelessness Action Plan.

Health

- 28 Children, including those in the Action Plan cohort, are included in the strategies being developed under the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022. As part of strategic planning and monitoring across the health system, MoH continues to focus on these children, young people and their families and to identify ongoing timely opportunities to better meet their needs. Alongside the broader cross-agency group, a health

⁷ APYA is used across prison sites to improve whānau-centred approaches for young people in Corrections custody.

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sector-specific data and insights group has been established between MoH and Oranga Tamariki to drive forward work on the health-related actions.

- 29 Te Whatu Ora and Oranga Tamariki are also developing locally distributed resources on how to access health and oral care services. This involves meeting with key stakeholders and social workers within communities to understand what content and form will be of most value to them.
- 30 Work programmes are being established to see the other health-related short-term practical actions delivered in 2023. This includes the development of an integrated service model to improve holistic and tailored care across health agencies, within the context of fundamental system transformation. Te Aka Whai Ora continues to be engaged in this work, with an emphasis on elevating Mātauranga Māori and Te Ao Māori solutions in response to improving tamariki and rangatahi ora, with needs met through both assessment and planned care.

Education

- 31 The overall Attendance and Engagement Strategy was released by MoE in July 2022 and identified 13 priority actions. One of the actions is to “*work to better understand and respond to the barriers to attendance and engagement for ākongā who come into contact with Oranga Tamariki*”. This progressed the Implementation Plan item to develop the Attendance and Engagement Strategy to address barriers faced in participating and progressing in learning.
- 32 The recently announced education package for the Attendance Service and Attendance Officers has two components that are likely to have an impact for Oranga Tamariki populations of interest:
 - 32.1 Additional funding is going into the Attendance Service, enabling it to work with 3,000 more young people. The overall goal of the Attendance Service is to ensure young people are attending school, want to be at school, and are on the right path to success in their education. This aligns with other MoE actions under the Action Plan.
 - 32.2 New funding will establish Attendance Officers. The design of this service is under development and will be locally responsive. Attendance Officers will play a less intensive role than the Attendance Service. It will target children who are not regularly attending or at risk of becoming chronically absent by providing support to both schools and parents. Attendance Officers may play a useful role in supporting children in care, especially as the MoE builds its understanding of the education needs of this cohort.
- 33 As set out in the Implementation Plan, MoE is continuing to support iwi and Māori social service providers to facilitate and broker educationally powerful relationships between priority learners and their whānau and education services, although, it is not currently possible to identify young people in care who have benefited from this support. Resources and a process is being confirmed to progress the work, and there must be continued focus on the pace of delivery. The reporting cycle for this is provided quarterly as a part of the COVID-19 Response & Recovery Fund.

System Lead for regional alignment

- 34 In order to enable locally-led solutions, Oranga Tamariki and MSD have supported their Regional Managers to work with the Regional Public Service Leaders on the

Action Plan. This included engagement with Regional Public Service Commissioners and Regional Leadership Groups to increase awareness of the Action Plan and link its outcomes with regional priorities.

Oranga Tamariki

- 35 Oranga Tamariki, MoH and MoE sought agreement from the Ministers of Children and Health and the Associate Minister of Education in December 2022 to initiate a review of the Gateway Assessment Programme. Broadly, it proposed engaging with children, young people, whānau, iwi and Māori partners, and key professionals, providers and agency representatives from early 2023 to understand their views, experiences of how Gateway currently works, and what a better system would look like. I want to make sure we take a pragmatic approach to this work and will be engaging further with officials on how it proceeds.
- 36 In 2022, on supporting rangatahi Māori to return to whānau, hapū, or iwi, Oranga Tamariki has implemented new resources and training on planning processes and hui-a-whānau, and extended access to new Practice Centre resources to external community partners and professionals.
- 37 Oranga Tamariki has developed new collateral and delivered internal training to frontline kaimahi to improve awareness and understanding of the Entitlement to Return or Remain (ETRR). Oranga Tamariki has also undertaken research with young people to identify improvement opportunities to increase take up of ETRR.

Action 3 progress: Oranga Tamariki delivered the four assessments set out by the Implementation Plan

- 38 Four in-depth assessments of need across the three services areas of education, health and housing were delivered in 2022 under Action 3 of the Action Plan. These in-depth assessments are key to the long-term success of the Action Plan. They are designed to clearly outline the specific needs of children and young people in the priority population and provide a basis for other agencies to then respond to those needs. The assessments that have been completed are:
- 38.1 Housing needs for those transitioning to independence
- 38.2 Housing needs for children and young people currently in care
- 38.3 Education needs for children and young people currently in care
- 38.4 Health needs particularly in the area of mental health services.

Action 4 progress: An Evidence and Indicators Dashboard has been developed to support evidence-based discussions

- 39 A prototype Evidence and Indicators Dashboard prototype has been developed and approved by the Child Youth Wellbeing Strategy Ministers. This sets out critical indicators which over time are intended to show whether improvements have been made in targeted areas. The Dashboard will support discussions at the Social Wellbeing Board and at meetings of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Ministers (refer recommendation 4) and highlight what areas need continued attention.

Action 5 progress: Work is underway to establish a cross-agency work programme to support a better understanding of regional wellbeing needs

- 40 Toi Hau Tangata Social Wellbeing Agency (SWA) and Oranga Tamariki have identified priority areas to work together initially, including leveraging the SWA data and analytics platform for regional and sub-regional data to complement the Action Plan's Evidence and Indicators Dashboard.

Action 6 progress: Cross-agency responses to the in-depth assessments under Action 3 will be what leads to specific changes at the frontline

- 41 Cross-agency responses are on track and will be delivered to the agreed schedule of three months after Ministers have received an in-depth assessment. The first response, following the in-depth assessment of housing needs for the cohort transitioning to independence, was delivered to the Social Wellbeing Board in November 2022, and the next two cross-agency responses (relating to the housing and education in care cohorts) went to the Social Wellbeing Board in April 2023. These set out an agreed work programme and timeframes for addressing the recommendations made in the in-depth assessments.

Action 7 progress: Learning in residential care requires further resourcing

- 42 In response to the Education Review Office's (ERO) recommendations on learning in residential care, MoE, Oranga Tamariki and ERO have continued to work collaboratively to progress the joint work programme. This includes the development and consultation with the relevant education providers on draft Service Guidance for working together in residences. There is a need for further resourcing from MoE to take this work forward.

Action 8 progress: Education high needs review leading to new mixed model system

- 43 Cabinet agreed to develop a new mixed model system of learning support for learners with the highest need. This new system aims to create a partnership between the student, their family/whānau and the early learning centre or school. The partnership approach will give students and families/whānau greater choice and control about what support looks like for them. It also includes ensuring Māori whānau and Pacific families and communities have easier and greater access to a range of supports available from agencies that uphold their identity, language and culture. Students will be able to access an inclusive curriculum on an equal basis to others to participate, progress and achieve throughout their education pathway.⁸

Action 10 progress: Advice provided on a Budget 2023 package

- 44 This priority recognises the importance of the first 1,000 days of a child's life (from pregnancy to two years) in establishing people's long-term wellbeing. Section 9(2)(f) (iv) DPMC has since prepared a first 1,000 days implementation roadmap for the 2023 calendar year, with a specific focus on supporting a localised, whānau-led system learning approach to the first 1,000 days. DPMC is now working with place-based initiatives, to understand optimal conditions and essential backbone support for whānau to thrive in their community.

⁸ This drew on analysis of engagement feedback and a range of sources including the ERO report on disabled learners' experiences, and the SWA and New Zealand Council for Education Research summaries of stakeholder feedback.

Action 11 progress: 36 Oranga Tamariki sites partnering, or working towards partnering, to respond to reports of concern

- 45 Oranga Tamariki is working with communities to develop a partnering approach to assess and respond to reports of concern, the majority of which are reported by partner agencies. As at August 2022, 11 of the 61 Oranga Tamariki community sites were already partnering with communities to assess and respond to reports of concern. A further 25 sites were working with communities to put this in place. The pace for this mahi is set by Oranga Tamariki partners.

Delegated authority is sought to make minor Implementation Plan changes

- 46 As workstreams progress, approaches may need to be adapted to reflect frontline experiences on the ground, improved data, the views of children and young people, and practical hurdles. This paper proposes to delegate authority to me, as the Plan Minister, to approve changes in scope, emphasis and timing for Implementation Plan activities that cumulatively have no more than a minor impact on what will be delivered, in consultation with the responsible Minister for the relevant agency(ies) (refer recommendation 5).
- 47 Examples of minor changes include expanding or adapting an existing activity to ensure it provides more targeted impact, changing the focus to ensure the right lead agency(ies) responsible for an activity are involved, and minor shifts in timelines that are essential to give effect to a particular activity and therefore opportunity to succeed. It would not include removing an activity entirely, agreeing to significant delays, adding a new activity entirely, or minor changes that collectively would significantly alter the Implementation Plan.

Further changes to actions and implementation may be proposed in 2023

- 48 Alongside work on the initial Action Plan, other work may highlight issues that need to be addressed collectively by children's agencies (refer recommendation 6). For example, the Oranga Tamariki Ministerial Advisory Board has delivered an addendum report to Hipokingia ki te Kahu Aroha Hipokingia ki te Katoa highlighting system barriers for disabled children and young people, and their families and whānau. The recommendations made in the addendum report⁹ should be considered as additional actions to implement.
- 49 The Experiences of Care in Aotearoa 2021/2022 report by the Independent Children's Monitor in February 2023 contains specific recommendations regarding the access to services by children in care which correlate with the aims and objectives of the Action Plan. Agencies are learning from the Report's feedback, and relevant Action Plan Actions may be adjusted, reprioritised or accelerated to directly address the recommendations.

Next steps

- 50 From now on, I propose to use the six-monthly implementation reports to the Child and Youth Wellbeing Ministers to monitor progress under the Oranga Tamariki Action

⁹ Recommendations included: that the Action Plan states the role and responsibilities of each agency in leading and supporting improvements for disabled children and young people, and their whānau, parents and caregivers; that the Action Plan should include opportunities for developing a shared understanding of disability across the children's system; and, that the Action Plan should include exploring opportunities to increase support for whānau, parents and carers enabling disabled children and young people to remain in or close to home and developing more varied, responsive and flexible care options for disabled children and young people including placements and therapeutic services.

Plan. Content from these reports will be included in children's agencies' departmental annual reports for 2022-23.¹⁰

- 51 If there are proposed amendments to actions or additional actions for the Action Plan, such as in relation to disability services, I propose to seek endorsement of these from the Child and Youth Wellbeing Ministers (refer recommendation 7).

Financial Implications

- 52 There are likely to be financial implications arising from the work that will be done to implement the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan. Options to prioritise the priority populations could have financial implications or lead to changes to service delivery to other populations. The full costs and implications of the Action Plan will be worked through as Actions are completed. Any funding requirements will need to be considered and prioritised through future budget bid processes.

Legislative Implications

- 53 There are no direct legislative implications arising from initial implementation of the Action Plan.

Regulatory Impact Statement

- 54 There are no regulatory proposals in this paper, and therefore Cabinet's impact analysis requirements do not apply.

Climate Implications of Policy Assessment

- 55 The Climate Implications of Policy Assessment (CIPA) team has been consulted and confirms that the CIPA requirements do not apply to this proposal as the threshold for significance is not met.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi Implications

- 56 The Action Plan and accompanying Implementation Plan both seek to reduce the disparities presented by the over-representation of tamariki and rangatahi Māori in the priority populations. The actions support a shift to a greater role, and increased resources, for iwi, hapū and whānau Māori to support the wellbeing of tamariki and rangatahi Māori. This is consistent with the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi, particularly the principles of active protection, partnership, and equity.

Population Implications

- 57 Within the Action Plan cohort, the Action Plan has a particular focus on outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi Māori, Pacific peoples and disabled people. This is consistent with the reviews of Oranga Tamariki in recent years, which identified these groups as being at risk of worse outcomes within the care and protection and youth justice systems.

Human Rights

- 58 The proposals in this Cabinet Paper are consistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990, the Human Rights Act 1993, the United Nations Convention on the

¹⁰ This is a requirement of section 11(b) of the Children's Act 2014.

Rights of the Child, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Consultation

- 59 This Cabinet Paper has been created in collaboration and/or consultation with ACC, the Department of Corrections, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Child Wellbeing and Poverty Reduction Group, Policy Advisory Group), Ministry of Education, Manatū Hauora, Te Whatu Ora, Te Aka Whai Ora, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Pacific Peoples, Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Women, Ministry of Youth Development, New Zealand Police, Public Service Commission, Social Wellbeing Agency, Te Puni Kōkiri, Treasury and Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People.

Communications

- 60 Findings from the first four in-depth assessments of need either already have been or shortly will be published on the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan website. Additionally, the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan team is accelerating and scaling up communications and awareness-raising activity. When the focus of the team was on building a solid foundation and putting in place new systems and processes, an organic approach to promotion and engagement was taken. This involved direct engagement and hui as well as supplying information on-request to interested parties. The publication of the Housing (Transitions) Needs Assessment in October 2022 did attract some media coverage, while references to the Action Plan are frequently made in other coverage of Oranga Tamariki activity.
- 61 Oranga Tamariki and the other Action Plan Agencies will use the opportunities provided by publication of three further Needs Assessments, Reports Back, and Implementation Six-Monthly Report Back to support engagement by highlighting progress and opportunities to kaimahi, communities, partners and providers, and other agencies. This content will be deployed as part of a planned positive, proactive, and multi-channel approach to communications and engagement that features all Agencies involved in this mahi.

Proactive Release

- 62 I will proactively release this Cabinet Paper on the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan website in May 2023.

Recommendations

The Minister for Children recommends that the Committee:

- 1 **note** that on 4 July 2022, Cabinet endorsed the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan Implementation Plan as an important companion to the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan, and invited the Minister to report back to Cabinet on progress made in implementing the plans in December 2022 [CAB-22-MIN-0255] (refer paragraph 9);
- 2 **note** that children's agency chief executives will provide six-monthly implementation reports to Child and Youth Wellbeing Ministers from March 2023 (refer paragraph 10);

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- 3 **note** the progress made in delivering against the short-term practical actions in the Implementation Plan (refer paragraphs 16-37);
- 4 **note** the Evidence and Indicators Dashboard developed under action 4 will be provided with the six-monthly implementation reports (refer paragraph 39);
- 5 **authorise** the Plan Minister to make minor amendments to the Implementation Plan in consultation with the responsible Minister for the relevant agency(ies) (refer paragraph 46);
- 6 **note** that potential areas have been identified for expanding the actions in the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan in 2023 (refer paragraphs 48-49);
- 7 **agree** that if there are proposed amendments to actions or additional actions for the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan, the Minister will seek endorsement of these from Child and Youth Wellbeing Ministers (refer paragraph 51).

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Kelvin Davis

Minister for Children

Appendix A: Oranga Tamariki Action Plan – 11 Actions

1	Children’s agency chief executives will clarify expectations to frontline decision-makers/ operational staff of the requirement to meet the needs of the children, young people and whānau who are engaged with Oranga Tamariki or are likely to come to the attention of Oranga Tamariki. Longer-term, there will be a corresponding responsibility for agencies to report back on how they are fulfilling these responsibilities and what’s changed.
2	Each agency will identify practical, high impact actions they can lead, and implement with other agencies as appropriate, to meet the needs of priority populations.
3	Specific needs will be identified through Oranga Tamariki undertaking in depth assessments of need in housing, education and health with recommendations on how to prioritise access to services for the priority population.
4	An evidence and indicator dashboard will be developed for regular, evidence-based discussions at meetings of the Social Wellbeing Board and Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Ministerial group. The Dashboard will include insights and data on the needs and experiences of the population of interest, such as the number of children and young people referred for further assessments or assessed as having specific education needs.
5	Evidence and data will be provided to regional leaders to inform community-led planning, and the development of community solutions.
6	Relevant agencies will work in conjunction with Oranga Tamariki to respond to the findings and recommendations discussed in the in-depth assessments of need (action three) to identify options to improve access to services to meet the needs of the priority population. This could include options for expanding or replicating collaborative practices that are already working well, or broader system changes.
7	The Ministry of Education and Oranga Tamariki will continue to progress a joint work programme to respond to the Education Review Office Evaluation of learning in residential care.
8	As a part of the Highest Needs Review, the Ministry of Education is working with other agencies, including Oranga Tamariki, to consider how to align services and supports to ensure children and young people with the highest learning support needs, and their families and whānau, have access to the right support for learning to occur.
9	Agencies will build a high-level cross-agency picture of early support/prevention investment to identify gaps and opportunities. This will support informed and coordinated decisions around future investment in prevention. Initially, this action will focus on the proposed approach for developing an investment plan for Te Aorerekura – the National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence. The Te Aorerekura investment plan will identify investment priorities for communities and the specialist family violence/sexual violence sector.
10	The Social Wellbeing Board will drive further collective cross-agency effort to develop and test an integrated network of health, social services and informal supports for children and whānau in the first 1000 days, through a localised learning system approach, building on the health sector early years prototypes. This includes implementation of Action 24 of Te Aorerekura Action Plan: holistic support for safe early years.
11	Agencies will support a co-ordinated, locally led approach with community partners who are looking to lead and work collaboratively on prevention, including an initial focus on community-based and locally-led co-ordinated responses to reports of concern.

Appendix B: Summary of initial short-term practical activities delivered, as described in the Implementation Plan

Agency	Actions delivered in 2022
Ministry of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop locally-tailored resources to support social workers and carers supporting children and young people to arrange access to health and oral care services, fulfil health entitlements, and enrol with health care providers. - Specifically incorporate populations of interest to Oranga Tamariki within key health system accountability documents, such as the interim New Zealand Health Plan. - Establish a cross-agency data and insights group between the Ministry of Health and Oranga Tamariki to inform immediate and ongoing priorities and actions. - Develop and consult on options to support the transition of a child or young person in care from an acute mental health ward to community-based care by the end of 2022. - Respond to the in-depth health assessment within three months of its completion.
Ministry of Social Development with Oranga Tamariki	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with Regional Public Service Commissioners on how they can help drive support for and engagement with the Action Plan and actions through regional leadership (agencies, iwi, local government and partners) to enable locally-led solutions.
Ministry of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop an Engagement in Learning Strategy which addresses the barriers children and young people, including children and young people in care, face to participating and progressing in their learning. - Support iwi and Māori social service providers to facilitate and broker educationally powerful relationships between priority learners (including those in care) and their whānau, and education services. - Respond to in-depth education assessment within three months of its completion.
New Zealand Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partner, design and deliver an enhanced pilot of Te Pae Oranga Rangatahi (a culturally responsive improved Alternative Action response to offending). Police will work in partnership with iwi Māori providers. - Identify issues and potential solutions with information sharing within Police systems to ensure rangatahi presenting with risky behaviours are connected to the right wellbeing supports before behaviour develops into potential offending.
Ministry of Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop court familiarisation resources for witnesses in sexual violence trials, including resources specifically designed for tamariki and rangatahi, to help prepare to give evidence in a sexual violence trial. - Implement and evaluate new Kaiārahi roles in the Family Court to support parents to access services and community-based support. - Expand the Young Adult List into Gisborne and Hamilton District Courts, with the aim of supporting young adults aged 18 to 25 to more easily understand and engage with the court process, and to enable the Court to have a better understanding of any barriers to full participation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify options to increase access to family violence safety programmes for children.
<p>Ministry of Housing and Urban Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review implementation of the initial 54 rangatahi youth focused transitional housing places to identify any improvements that can be applied when extending the service. - Design a new supported accommodation service for rangatahi with higher and more complex needs that provides immediate access to safe, warm, and stable longer-term accommodation, along with age-appropriate intensive supports. - Review supported housing under the Aotearoa New Zealand Homelessness Action Plan looking across different supported housing typologies including those that support Oranga Tamariki populations of interest. - Respond to in-depth housing assessment within three months of its completion.
<p>Oranga Tamariki</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oranga Tamariki has an additional legislated responsibility for oversight of the Action Plan. Oranga Tamariki will advocate for those children and their families to other agencies to ensure those children’s needs are met. - Initiate a review of the Gateway assessment process. Officials will gather information on Gateway and report to the Ministers of Health, Education and Children on the scope and approach for a review.